



# SOLOMON BUILT THE TEMPLE

## 1 KINGS 6-8

### **Instructions**

The curriculum we use for elementary aged children goes through the Bible chronologically. Currently we are finishing up the book of Deuteronomy. So that your child can continue their journey through the Bible we will be putting together VERY basic Bible lessons for you to do at home. Below you will find a summary of this week's Bible passage. All you have to do is read it with your kids. Then you will see two different sets of discussion questions. One for older kids (3rd-4th grade range) and one for younger kids (Kinder-2nd grade range). Read the discussion questions with your kids. Remember, discussion is not one sided, it's different people talking together. Give your kids the opportunity to think and speak. I pray the Lord speaks to you and your family as you dive into His word together.

### **Tell the Bible Story**

Solomon was the king of Israel after his father, David, died. God made Solomon very wise. Solomon began to build a temple for the Lord. Solomon ordered thousands of workers to help build the temple. They cut cedar logs and stone blocks. They laid a foundation and built the outside of the Temple.

God blessed the temple and promised Solomon, "If you obey My commands, I will keep the promise I made to David. I will live among the Israelites, and I will not abandon My People."

The temple was built in seven years. It was beautiful! The cedar paneling inside the temple was carved with ornamental gourds and flower blossoms. Solomon overlaid everything inside the temple with pure gold. He hired men to make bronze furnishings for the temple, such as bronze bowls for holding water. When the temple was complete, Solomon moved the ark of God from its place on Mount Zion to the new temple in Jerusalem. Solomon gathered the lead-



ers of Israel. As the priests moved the ark to the most holy place in the temple, King Solomon and the leaders sacrificed sheep and cattle to the Lord.

When the priests came out of the temple, a cloud filled the temple. God's glory was in the cloud. Solomon turned to speak to the Israelites. "Praise God!" he said. "God promised David that his son would build a temple. God kept His promise!"

Solomon stood and prayed with his hands spread out toward heaven. "There is no God like You!" he said. Then Solomon thought about the future. He knew Israel would sin and make God angry again; so Solomon asked for forgiveness, and he asked God to hear their prayers.

When Solomon had finished praying, he encouraged the Israelites to love and obey God. The people returned to their homes, joyful because God was good to them.

## CHRIST CONNECTION:

*The temple was a place where God was with His people. The people could go there to make sacrifices and worship God. Today, when we trust in Jesus, He is with us wherever we go. We can look to Him for forgiveness and help.*

### **Discussion & Bible Skills - Older**

Guide your kids to open their Bibles to 1 Kings 8. Challenge kids to identify the testament and Bible division where 1 Kings is found. (Old Testament History)

Read 1 Kings 8:27. Ask the following questions. Lead your kids to discuss:

1. Why did Solomon want to build a temple for God?

*Guide your kids to recall that King David had wanted to build a temple to honor God. God had told King David that his son Solomon would build a temple. Solomon wanted to build the temple to honor God. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Kings 5:2-5.)*

2. The temple Solomon built was where people went to meet with God. Why don't people have to go to a temple now to meet with God?

*Remind your kids that because God is holy, sinful people could not approach His presence in the temple. The priest could approach God's presence and obtain forgiveness for people's sin. When Jesus died on the cross, He paid for our sin once and for all.*



*When we trust in Him, we have forgiveness and can approach God on our own through prayer, Bible reading, and worship. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Heb. 4:16.)*

3. How do you feel about communicating with God?

*Invite kids to share their thoughts and experiences. Emphasize that we can approach God as a loving Father. He loves His children. We can speak to God through prayer about anything. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read James 5:13.)*



## SAY:

*For hundreds of years—ever since God led the Israelites out of Egypt—He had met with His people in the tabernacle. But when Solomon became king, God led His people to build a temple where He would dwell with them. The people could go there to make sacrifices and worship God. The temple was built in Jerusalem.*

### **Discussion & Bible Skills - Younger**

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help them find 1 Kings 6–8. If you have new kids in your group, be sure to explain how to find passages in the Bible using the table of contents, large chapter numbers, and small verse numbers. Review which division 1 Kings is in. (Old Testament History) Challenge a kid to name the other books in this division. (Joshua–Esther)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. What did God promise to do if Solomon obeyed Him?

*Dwell among the Israelites, not abandon them; 1 Kings 6:13*

2. How long did it take Solomon and the workers to finish the temple?

*Seven years, 1 Kings 6:38*

3. What did Solomon ask God to do when Israel sinned?

*Hear their prayers, forgive them, and restore them when they repent; 1 Kings 8:33-34*

4. Does God need a house or a place to live?

*Guide your kids to see that God did not need a temple. Help kids understand that the temple was a symbol of God's choice to dwell with Israel. Remind them that God does not need anything from people. (See Acts 17:24-25.) God is everywhere, but He showed His presence in a special way to the Israelites through the temple.*



5. How does God dwell with Christians today?

*Discuss the role of the Holy Spirit. Remind your kids that all who trust in Jesus have the Holy Spirit living inside them. He guides Christians to love and obey Jesus. Christians gather together to worship God and learn about Him, but Jesus is with us everywhere.*

6. If Jesus is already with us, why is His return important?

*Discuss the difference between Jesus' presence with us now and His physical return to rule as King of kings. When Jesus returns, He will fix everything sin has broken. Jesus' return will signal the full coming of God's Kingdom.*



## SAY:

*God led His people to build a temple where He would dwell with them. Because of Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and ascension, Christians have God with us all the time through the Holy Spirit.*